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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 02-06

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Requirement to Install SSAS on Passenger Vessels

All vessels authorized to carry more than twelve passengers (this includes offshore workers, persons in addition to the crew, and industrial workers) on international voyages are required to have installed a Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) per the requirements in SOLAS Chapter XI-2 Regulation 6.1.2, not later than the first annual survey of the radio installation after July 1, 2004. All vessels as described above should have complied prior to July 1, 2005.

The Federal Register (Volume 69, Number 66) dated April 6, 2004 acknowledges that U.S. vessels operating from a foreign port are considered to be on an international voyage and if certified to carry more than 12 passengers must meet ISPS requirements within the prescribed timeline.

In SOLAS Chapter I, Regulation 2.e, a passenger is defined as every person other than the master and the members of the crew or other persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship on the business of that ship. All offshore workers, persons in addition to the crew, and industrial workers fall under the SOLAS definition of a passenger.

Vessels who have failed to comply but continue to operate may be subject to civil penalty action and/or operating restrictions.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Bulletin, please contact Lieutenant Mechelle Burdick at the above number or address.

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